

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 SS-15 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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LONDON, PARIS, BONN FOR DEA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, UR, US

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 189458, STATE 189459

1. MOSCOW'S REP AT SUBJECT CONFERENCE WILL BE EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR JACK GOSNELL. NO HOTEL RESERVATION REQUESTED.

2. ON STRUCTURE OF CONFERENCE, EMBASSY MOSCOW WELCOMES ADDITION OF WORKSHOPS (INCLUDING SPECIFIC WORKSHOP FOR EASTERN EUROPE, VIDE INFRA), A SUGGESTION FORWARDED AT THE 1975 CONFERENCE. ANOTHER SUGGESTION RAISED AT 1975'S CONFERENCE WAS THAT NARCOTICS COORDINATORS BE PROVIDED SOME BRIEFING MATERIALS BEFORE CONFERENCE SO AS TO ARRIVE MORE PREPARED TO START DISCUSSIONS IMMEDIATELY. USEFUL MATERIALS WOULD INCLUDE, BUT ARE CERTAINLY NOT LIMITED TO, SHORT SUMMARIES OR ABSTRACTS OF THE KEY PRESENTATIONS WHICH WILL BE HEARD IN DETAIL AT THE CONFERENCE.

3. ON SUBSTANCE OF CONFERENCE, EMBASSY MOSCOW PARTICULARLY APPRECIATES INCLUSION OF ITEM ON WASHINGTON'S NEEDS FROM THE POSTS (PARA 2E OF REF B).

4. AS THE DEPARTMENT AND DEA ARE AWARE, THE NARCOTICS SITUATION IN EASTERN EUROPE TOOK A NEW WRINKLE IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR WHEN SOVIET AUTHORITIES ARRESTED THREE AMERICAN CITIZENS TRANSITING MOSCOW FROM ASIA TO EUROPE WITH 28 KILOGRAMS OF "BROWN-SUGAR" HEROIN. DURING THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE ALSO ARRESTED SEVERAL WESTERN EUROPEANS FOR POSSESSING MARIJUANA, HASHISH, OPIUM, OR HEROIN IN TRANSIT. DEA'S BELIEF THAT "TRANSITING MOSCOW" HAS RECENTLY BECOME AN ACTIVE ROUTE OF ASIA-TO-EUROPE DRUG SMUGGLING THUS RAISES THE HYDRA-HEADED QUESTION OF POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT WITH EASTERN-BLOCK GOVERNMENTS. THIS QUESTION IS IMMENSELY MORE COMPLEX THAN COOPERATION WITH WESTERN NATIONS BECAUSE OF TRADITIONAL STANCES OF THE SOVIET UNION THAT DRUG ABUSE IS (A) A WESTERN, CAPITALIST PHENOMENON AND (B) A NATIONAL, NOT INTERNATIONAL ENFORCEMENT PROBLEM. FURTHER, WHILE AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION WOULD LIKELY HOLD THAT HEROIN-TRAFFICKING IS SUCH A HEINOUS ACTIVITY THAT NO CONCERN IS RAISED OVER AMERICAN CITIZENS CAUGHT, CONVICTED AND DETAINED IN WESTERN EUROPEAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRISONS. THE DEPARTMENT AND DEA ARE IN A FAR BETTER POSITION THAN WE TO JUDGE WHETHER SIMILAR PUBLIC FEELINGS WOULD EXTEND TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IMPRISONED IN SOVIET LABOR CAMPS, GIVEN GENERAL AMERICAN THOUGHTS ABOUT THE SOVIET SYSTEMS OF JUSTICE. EMBASSY

MOSCOW BELIEVES THAT THIS CONSIDERATION MUST BE KEPT IN MIND WHEN WEIGHING THE IDEA AS WELL AS POSSIBLE FORMS OF COOPERATION WITH SOVIET ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES, SO AS

TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF ANY PUBLIC CRY THAT THE USG IS ACTIVELY
ASSISTING IN A PROCESS THAT IS SENDING AMERICAN CITIZENS TO SOVIET
CAMPS. THIS EMBASSY SUPPORTS THE IDEA OF COOPERATION IN
NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT, AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE SUCH COOPERATION
APPROACHED BY THE USG IN AN OPTIMUM FASHION. WE
HOPE THAT THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS
THIS QUESTION WITH THE REPS OF THE EASTERN EUROPEAN POSTS.

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